Winding up of Wagon India Limited

1890. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to wind up Wagon India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether some private companies are putting pressure to wind up Wagon India Ltd.; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the objective for which Wagon India Limited was set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) There is stiff competition both in the public and private sector to supply wagons to the Railways in a situation where the demand falls short of installed capacity to manufacture wagons. Wagon India Limited (WIL) was established initially to distribute the orders for wagons among all participants, public and private. Government is now examining the utility of WIL in the context of the Railways having resorted to tenders for the procurement of the wagons and competition from the private sector.

BHEL Staffers are Egging on NTPC

1891. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Industry Ministry resents Power Minister's charges that BHEL staffers are egging on NTPC" published in Indian Express, dated 22nd February 2000; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The views expressed therein are of the correspondent.

Financing of Loss Making CPSUs

1892. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has urged Government not to finance the loss making Public Sector Units in the country;

(b) if so, the details of investments made by Government in loss making Central Public Sector Undertakings during the past three years; undertaking-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the efforts of Government to revive such loss making units have remained ineffective and gone waste; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such losses in PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There were 104, 100 and 106 loss making CPSUs respectively as on 31.3.1997, 31.3.1998 and 31.3.1991. The PSU-wise net investments made by the Central Government in CPSUs, including loss making, are available in Statements 17 & 18 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey for the respective years, which had been laid in the Parliament (The Survey 1998-99 has already been laid in Lok Sabha on 10.3.2000 and the same will be laid in Rajya Sabha at the earliest) and which is a published document.

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to restructure and revive loss making PSUs. As a result, many PSUs have been able to restructure their operations, improve productivity and achieve a turn around in performance.

(d) The factors responsible for losses vary from unit to unit. Some of the general factors have been low capacity utilisation, outdated technology, obsolete plant and machinery, low productivity, input cost escalations, resource crunch, high interest and depreciation burden, week marketing strategy, surplus manpower etc.